

YALE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

CREATIVE

WRITING

CONCEN-

TRATORS'

~~**BALL**~~

LIVE STREAM

April 22, 2020 | 7pm

The Concentrators' Ball is the culminating event of the year for seniors concentrating in the Creative Writing program of Yale's Department of English. Concentrators will read original works in drama, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction crafted with the guidance of faculty members during the 2019-2020 academic year.

<https://youtu.be/RIKwkSB-jk>

Special thanks to the English Department, Jessica Brantley (Chair), Michael Warner (DUS), Richard Deming (Director of the Creative Writing Program), and Cynthia Zarin (Coordinator of the Writing Concentration)

Joshua Baize

Joshua Baize is an English major from San Antonio. His fiction project, *Plaza*, is an adaptation of the Acts of the Apostles, starring Jesus and several lepers tramping through modern-day suburbia. He would like to thank his advisor/spirit guide, Michael Cunningham, for finally convincing him that not every sentence needs a metaphor; Adam Reid Sexton, Cynthia Zarin, Susan Choi, and Anne Fadiman, for so many lessons; and his parents, for being the best storytellers of all.

Olivia Belliveau

Olivia Belliveau is from Stratford, Connecticut. Her senior project is a collection of poems tentatively titled *Inheritance Between Trees*. She is extremely grateful to Claudia Rankine and Emily Skillings for keen insights, for encouragement, and for helping her reconsider her worst poetic habits. She also extends gratitude to Cynthia Zarin, Louise Glück, and to her friends and family.

Walker Caplan

Walker Caplan is an English and Theater Studies major from Seattle, WA. Walker's senior project, *FULL-TIME*, is a play about chronic pain, multilevel marketing, and the myth of escape. Many thanks to Walker's advisor, Deb Margolin, for her endless insight and patience. Thanks also to the 2020 playwriting cohort, Margaret Spillane, Paul Walsh, Susan Choi, family, and countless others.

Nurit Chinn

Nurit Chinn is an English major from London and Tel Aviv. Nurit's senior project, *DOROT*, is a play about Bat Mitzvahs, ghosts, masturbation, and Jewish memory. Huge thanks to Nurit's advisor, Deb Margolin, for filling this project with laughs, poetics, and possibility. Thank you also to countless others: Control Group, 5H, Margaret Spillane, Donald Margulies, Claudia Rankine, my fellow Concentrator Elliot, my mother, and my grandmother who literally died during my Bat Mitzvah 10 years ago. זכרונה לברכה.

Elliot Connors

My nonfiction project, *Saint-Leon*, is about my suicidal family in rural Quebec. Huge thanks to Mark Oppenheimer, Margaret Spillane, Cynthia Zarin, Anne Fadiman, Susan Choi, Clifton Spargo, the other nonfiction concentrators, Nurit, my Uncle Serge, my Aunt Lucille, and my parents.

Sonia Gadre

Sonia Gadre is an English and Computer Science major from Louisville, Kentucky. Her collection of horror stories titled *Window Kill and Other Stories* focuses on a set of characters in

her hometown whose internal anxieties manifest in uncanny and often supernatural ways. She would like to thank Richard Deming for the care and support he has poured into advising this project; Caryl Philips, Cynthia Zarin, Shifra Sharlin, and Kim Shirkhani for their guidance over the past four years; her friends and family for supporting her through periods of intense keyboard clacking; and Rick Prum for piquing her interest in cuckoos.

Mariah Kreutter

Mariah Kreutter is an English major from New Jersey, to which she will never return. Her senior project, *Bad Nights*, is the beginning of a novel. She would like to thank her advisor, Michael Cunningham, for his dedicated guidance; her English 465 classmates, for reading (and critiquing) it first; Professors Caryl Phillips, Derek Green, and Anne Fadiman, for their help along the way; and her family, for everything.

Charlie Lee

Charlie Lee is an English major from Philadelphia. His senior project, a collection of short stories, is called *Extra Time*. He is very grateful to his advisor, Susan Choi, whose guidance has been invaluable. Many thanks also to his family for their constant support, and especially to his mom, who has always been and will always be his favorite person to talk to about books.

Oscar Lopez Aguirre

Oscar Lopez Aguirre is an English major from South Central Los Angeles. His concentration project, "An Undrowning" focuses on his aunt's death, childhood grief, and the anxiety that comes with future grief. He would like to thank Prof. Mark Oppenheimer for putting up with me especially during these tumultuous times, his friends for listening to the many reiterations of this project, and his family for all of the obvious things like giving him life, shaping his person, and being there despite not understanding what exactly this is about. *Los quiero un montón*.

Carrie Mannino

Carrie Mannino is an English major in the Education Studies program from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her concentration play is a documentary project based on interviews she conducted while home last summer. She belongs to one of the congregations targeted in the shooting last October at the Tree of Life synagogue, and interviewed members of her community about their experiences before and after this event to paint a fuller picture of her neighborhood and city. She would like to thank Donald Margulies, Richard Deming, Cynthia Zarin, Toni Dorfman and Margaret Spillane for their advising; her parents for always supporting her; Trumbull College; and the individuals who allowed their voices to be shared in this project.

TC Martin

TC Martin is an English major from southern Maryland. His nonfiction project, *The Body Thus Confesses*, explores fatness and identity through the lens of Weight Watchers. He is incredibly grateful to his advisor, Anne Fadiman, for her careful edits and tireless dedication. He also extends his thanks to Lily Moore-Eissenberg, Margaret Spillane, Meghana Mysore, and his parents, Shannon and Tommy Martin.

Lily Moore-Eissenberg

Lily is a philosophy and English double major from Massachusetts. Her nonfiction project, a narrative profile called “The Bridge,” explores a nun’s relationship to faith, migration, and liberation theology. Lily is deeply grateful to her adviser, Anne Fadiman, and to her writing partner, TC, for their edits and insights. Thank you to Margaret Spillane, my friends, my moms, and Sister Tonia, for all the conversations.

Meghana Mysore

Meghana Mysore is an English major from Portland, Oregon. Her fiction project, a linked story collection titled *Pictionary*, explores the intergenerational memory and trauma of an Indian American family. She is so grateful to her adviser, Susan Choi, for her sharp insight and support at every step of the way. She also wants to thank Caryl Phillips, Margaret Spillane, TC and, of course, her parents, whose love and sacrifice are the soil from which every word grows.

Jared Newman

Jared Newman is an English major from New York City. His senior project, a collection of poems, is titled “The Wisconsin Glacier.” Thank you to Louise Glück, who is a teacher, a friend, and family.

Clementine O’Connor

Clementine O’Connor is from Cabot Vermont. Her fiction project is (creatively) titled *Stories About Death*, and consists of stories about death. She’d like to thank her advisor, R. Spargo, as well as her parents, and many other friends and advisors who have guided and encouraged her writing.

Spencer Parish

Spencer Parish is an English and MCDB Major from Manhattan, KS. His senior project is a play about three climate change scientists after the apocalypse, titled *The Game of Hours*. Spencer is incredibly grateful to his advisor, Donald Margulies, for teaching him the art of playwriting, and for all of his keen insights into his work, in this semester and always. He’s also grateful to Derek Green for introducing him to playwriting, Amity Gaige, for her insights and lessons on writing, and to his friends and family for all of their support. Finally, shout out to his eighth grade English teacher, Mr. Ali, for getting this ball rolling.

Marina Tinone

Marina Tinone completed their creative writing concentration essay collection, *Like A Mermaid Out of Air*, under the direction of Verlyn Klinkenborg. They can’t wait to keep writing about everyone and everything they love: family, friends, and the many forms of voice. To my family: thank you. I love you so much.

Karina Xie

Karina Xie is an English major from Queens, New York. Her senior project is a play about migration, language, grandparents, and intergenerational memory. Karina is so grateful to have

been under the care of her adviser Margaret Spillane--thank you for your insight, patience, and dedication. Thank you also to Deb Margolin, Sarah Stillman, and Bruce Shapiro, for your encouragement and guidance.